

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

#### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-4 were previously pending.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected.

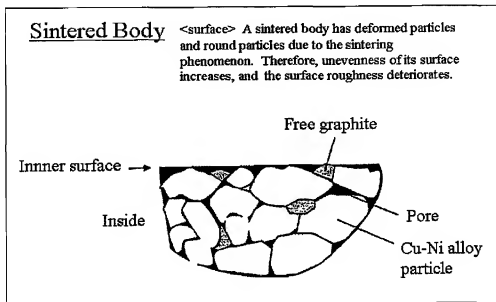
Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. No new matter is added.

#### **II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 2002-180162 ("JP '162"). The Examiner states that JP '692 discloses a wear resistant bearing for a motor fuel pump comprising a Cu-based sintered body of compacted powders having a composition in weight of 1-8% graphite, 0.1-0.9% P and 20-40% Ni and having a porosity of 5-25%. The Examiner contends that the content ranges of graphite, P and Ni in the Cu-based sintered body of JP '162 overlap the claimed ranges, and therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select the claimed ranges with expected success.

Independent claims 1 and 2 have now been amended to recite that "the blended base powders are press-molded into a compacted power, the compacted powder is sintered into a sintered body, and the sintered body is sized within the range of 400 to 500 MPa."

As a result of sizing the sintered body, as recited in amended claims 1 and 2, the sintered body is flattened. For example, Fig. A below shows a raw material that has been press-molded and then sintered. As a result of the sintering the surface has deformed and rounded particles. This characteristic leads to a surface roughness of about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  maximum height.



**FIG. A**

However, if the sintered body is sized within a range of 400 to 500 MPa, as recited, the surface roughness is reduced and the surface is flattened, as shown in Fig B. For example, the surface roughness may be flattened to a maximum height of about 3  $\mu\text{m}$ . Synergism between the composition recited in claim 1 and sizing the sintered body formed of that composition result in an advantageous flatness.



